Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /054 W

----- 122319

O 121008Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4665 AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 0853

CAPETWON ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, SF, LI

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT TO LIBERIA

- 1. APPARENT HIGH LEVEL SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION ARRIVED LIBERIA COMPLETELY UNANNOUNCED BY AIR FEBURARY 11 AND PERSONNEL DEPARTING FEBRUARY 12.
- 2. ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RIA) MONROVIA CLOSED FOR QTE SECURITY REASONS UNQTE BY FONMIN DENNIS (IN PERSON) ABOUT 12:30 ON FEBRUARY 11 AND ANNOUNCEMENT MADE THAT IT WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL 18:00 FEBRUARY 12. AFTER CLOSING, ONE UNSCHEDULED FLIGHT PERMITTED LAND TO PICK UP PAN AM RELIEF CREW AND TAKE THEM DAKAR. RIA EMPLOYEES THEN ORDERED OFF FIELD AT 16:00 EXCEPT FOR FEW PERSONS. FULLY ARMED SOLDIERS THEN DEPLOYED 3.7 MILE PERIMETER OF FIELD. AT APPROX 18:15 BOEING 707 AIRCRAFT IDENTIFIED BY USG AND OTHER OBSERVERS AS SOUTH AFRICAN AIRLINES LANDED AND STOPPED ON RUNWAY. AIRCRAFT SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS, AND PASSENGERS TAKEN BY OFFICIAL MOTORCADE THROUGH FIRESTONE PLANTATION APPARENTLY EN ROUTE PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S HOME IN BENTOL SECURITY GUARD CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINS DEPLOYED AROUND AIRCRAFT WHICH STILL ON RUNWAY, AND IT

BELIEVED THAT PART OF AIRCREW OR OTHER PERSONNEL REMAIN ON BOARD.

3. VIEW SECRECY AND DEGREE OF SECURITY SURROUNDING VISIT, EMBASSY ASSUMES HIGH LEVEL SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION (PERHAPS VORSTER HIMSELF) INVOLVED. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION RE CLOSING OF RIA WERE MADE WITH HIGH LEVEL GOL OFFICIALS AT ARMED FORCES DAY BALL EVENING FEBRUARY 11 TO NO AVAIL. ALL HIGH LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS PRESENT AT BALL. PENBERTHY

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TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, SF, LI, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)
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